THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. Defence Material and Stores Research and Development Establishment (DMSRDE), Kanpur, a laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is engaged in the research and development activities of nano materials including Nano Carbon.

(b) The impenetrability of the protective clothings using Nano Carbon is not yet established. However such clothing is found to be resistant to chemical agents.

(c) to (e) The technology for large scale production of Nano Carbon is in development stage and its structural application has not yet been established.

Merger of cantonments with municipalities in Uttaranchal

†2364. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received proposals for converting the cantonments of Ranikhet, Lancedowne and some other cantonments of the States into municipalities or merging them with the nearest municipalities; and

(b) if so, the details of such requests and the steps being taken by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Defence has received requests from the public as well as Government of Uttaranchal for converting the cantonment of Ranikhet into a municipality. No proposal for any other cantonment in Uttaranchal has been received. The proposal could not be acceded, since there is no provision for such conversion of cantonments into municipalities under the Cantonments Act, 1924. Cantonments Bill, 2003, however, provides for cantonment to be considered as deemed municipality.

Cross-border action by the Myanmar Army

2365. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.